

proliferation of weapons of mass destruction? What will preemptive war do to stability in the Middle East? Are we ready to commit to a decade of American troops policing Iraq and the billions of dollars needed to rebuild and stabilize that country?

Before we start a war that could kill thousands of civilians, could create hundreds of new al Qaeda recruits, could increase the potential of blowback aimed at innocent American citizens, we must think through the consequences of our actions and be prepared for a long, difficult road in Iraq.

One thing is certain: Any action against Iraq will be much more difficult, much more costly, much more dangerous if we take preemptive action against Iraq without the support of the United Nations Security Council.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POVERTY TRAP STUDY ACT OF 2003

(Mr. PETRI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, it is a shame and a scandal that many anti-poverty programs actually keep people poor by making it too expensive for them to work their way out of poverty. Our many anti-poverty programs were individually designed without regard for each other and without regard for the fact that if several benefits phase out simultaneously a poor person who works hard may find himself or herself worse off than if he or she stayed home or had done the minimum necessary to maintain the maximum level of benefits. I call this the poverty trap.

Able-bodied people will work their way out of poverty if they can clearly see the benefit. Accordingly, today I am introducing the Poverty Trap Study Act, to create a commission to examine the way benefit phase-outs and tax increases can sap the incentive of poor beneficiaries. It is a hard problem to tackle, but we must get started. This is an issue that liberals, conservatives, and moderates should all find of compelling importance, and I solicit my colleagues' support.

SECRETARY POWELL'S REMARKS FAIL TO JUSTIFY PREEMPTIVE STRIKE ON IRAQ

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, like many others, I waited to hear Secretary of State Colin Powell. I must confess that it was interesting to hear, watch, and to see; but I did not see anything that is going to cause me to change my position that there is no need to go into a preemptive strike and engage war with Iraq at this moment.

Like many, others I am hoping and waiting, hoping that we can work out peacefully what some think is inevi-

table: war. War, as General Sherman said, is absolute hell; and I think if we can avoid it, we need to do everything in our power.

RECOGNIZING SACRIFICE OF CREW OF SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA" IN QUEST TO EXPAND HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

(Mr. CRANE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday we lost seven of mankind's finest. The crew of the space shuttle *Columbia* made the ultimate sacrifice, not in a feat of arms, but in the noble quest to expand human knowledge. My deepest thoughts and prayers go to the families of those brave men and women lost in this accident. Their loved ones will be remembered with deep gratitude and admiration for their dedication towards advancing our understanding of new frontiers and discovering ways science can improve our lives.

While space shuttles fly regularly, space travel itself is anything but routine. Its dangers are many, but the *Columbia*'s crew was willing to brave them. We in Congress have a duty to them and our astronauts to find the cause of this horrific accident. We can never fully eliminate the danger, but we can manage the risk.

When asked by his brother about what would happen if something went wrong, Captain David Brown, a member of *Columbia*'s final crew, replied "This program will go on." He was right, but it will not just be this one program that goes on. No matter what setbacks confront us, humanity will explore the unknown, brave its dangers, and continue our drive to create a better world.

RECOGNIZING 17TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 17th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

The first Women in Sports Day was organized in 1986. It was to honor Flo Hyman, an extraordinary lady who won a silver medal in volleyball in the Olympics, bringing that sport out of obscurity.

Today, the National Girls and Women in Sports Day honors all women athletes and is celebrated in all 50 States. Community-based activities, award ceremonies, and dinners honoring women and coaches all occur today.

This year's national celebration is titled "Celebration: 30 years of Title IX," in honor of Title IX's impact on the sports community. Today, 30 years

later, one in three girls participate in high school athletics, as compared to 1 in 21 thirty years ago.

I hope we all take the time to celebrate this very special day and to honor the triumphs, the dedication, and the spirit of our great female athletes.

URGING AMERICANS TO REVIEW SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN POWELL'S PRESENTATION ON IRAQ TO UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNSEL

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of State Colin Powell today made a presentation to the United Nations Security Council. Mr. Speaker, I would just urge all Americans that are interested and concerned about this particular issue of Iraq to review that presentation.

One item after another to me presented a compelling argument that there is no question that Saddam Hussein, number one, is a bad guy; number two, has been developing these weapons of mass destruction.

For two reasons, I think it is important that we just not let this slide. One, if Saddam Hussein starts thinking that we are not going to have military force to insist on his compliance with the United Nations' Resolution 1441, there is a greater likelihood that he is not going to destroy those weapons. If he thinks it is going to happen, that war is inevitable if he does not do something, if he does not start showing and destroying these weapons, then I think there is a good chance that he is either going to vacate and take his roughly \$1.5 billion with him to another country, or he is going to give up those weapons in order to continue as the leader of that country that has great economic potential.

Nobody should doubt, Mr. Speaker, that if there was not, in effect, a gun to Saddam Hussein's head, and the President being tough on this issue, there would not be inspectors in there and there would not be a United Nations Security Council debating where we go to insist that Iraq give up those weapons.

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REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 497

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 497.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.